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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1184
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 000281

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E - MBEYZEROV
DEPARTMENT FOR AF/S - EPELLETREAU

SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR'S POSITION ON ZIMBABAWA DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 33658

SBU) Per reftel, the Ambassador spoke with Madagascar's Foreign Minister Marcel Ranjeva again on April 10, following several recent conversations expressing U.S. concerns about Zimbabwe. FM Ranjeva said that while Madagascar is sympathetic to the USG's views on Zimbabwe, as the last member to join SADC Madagascar is at pains not to get out of step with SADC or the African Union by getting out in front of either on this "delicate" subject. Ranjeva pointed to the upcoming April 18 SADC meeting in Mauritius, which he is slated to attend alongside President Ravalomanana, as the focal point for SADC discussions. (He made no mention of an earlier SADC Summit to take place this weekend in Lusaka, which the April 10 Malagasy press is reporting.)

MARQUARDT